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1989

Winter Storms Keep
EMCs Working
Overtime

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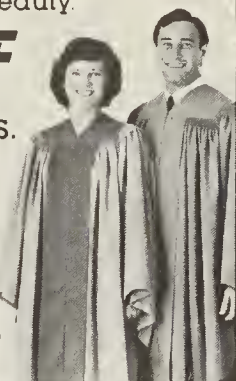
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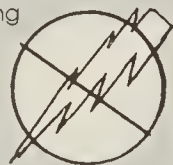


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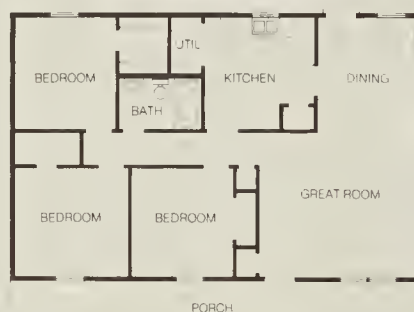
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Co-ops Still Seek "A Level Playing Field"

The following editorial was written by J. C. Brown, manager of association publications for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He is a former manager of North Carolina's statewide organization of electric cooperatives and a former editor of this magazine.

During the Reagan years, an official of the Office of Management and Budget gave us the attractive vision of a society where everyone competed for scarce resources on a "level playing field." They couldn't have described what the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) and the co-ops were all about any better.

From its very beginning in 1935, REA was intended to bring equity on a national scope to persons in rural areas who were unserved by central station electricity.

In testifying before committees of Congress, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter responded to questions about the Bush budget, which for rural programs is the same as Reagan's. His comments suggested he had been badly informed on REA.

Yeutter said that most co-ops "have reached a stage of maturity where they do not need the level of government subsidies that they have had in the past."

Yeutter, perhaps with the best intentions, created a straw man. There have been major changes in the REA program which recognize growth and strength in the rural electric cooperatives.

In 1973, Congress, President Nixon, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) agreed on amendments to the REA program which more than doubled the basic interest rate on loans. In practice, it deprived the generation and transmission cooperatives of access to direct REA loans and offered them a government guarantee of private loans instead. The guaranteed loan program, in several instances, substituted interest rates of 15 percent for the 2 percent rate offered by REA prior to 1973.

Because there were savings to be had by government and the ultimate borrowers, the generation and transmission cooperatives have

borrowed most of their capital through the Federal Financing Bank (at the cost of money plus a brokerage fee).

The Secretary of Agriculture should know that the government not only is getting more money from rural electric systems through higher interest rates, it has become a minority provider of capital. Originally, the co-ops were nearly 100 percent capitalized by federal money. In 1987, rural electric distribution systems provided 50 percent of the funds used for plant additions. That is money that came from the members in their rates. They borrowed 34 percent (advances on loans) and obtained 17 percent from private lenders, usually the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), the cooperatively-owned financing institution.

The REA distribution systems and the generation and transmission borrowers paid interest on outstanding long-term debt of \$3.2 billion in 1987. This was an average interest rate of 7.94 percent. It would have been greater except for the fact that payments reflect a fair amount of 2 percent money, which was the only loan rate that applied prior to 1973.

Secretary Yeutter inherits a government program that is working like it is supposed to. The REA clients are paying, on average, four times the interest rate they were when President Nixon took office. Where they were getting 100 percent of their capital from the government 15 years ago, the distribution systems are now getting only 34 percent.

Despite a maturing of the rural electric cooperatives over the past 54 years, the field is still far from level. The rural electric cooperatives and public utility districts serve an average of five consumers per mile of line; the average investor-owned utility serves 30 per mile.

Rural electrification has succeeded as a national institution, viewed in its totality and funded and operated as such.

It would never have worked if rural America had been split into segments with one set of policies and terms for the areas that seemed to prosper and another for the pockets of isolation and economic desperation.

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Cover: "Rural Memories" by Pamela C. Renfroe

Our cover this month features an original oil painting by Pamela C. Renfroe that was prepared especially for *Carolina Country*. It is titled, "Rural Memories."

Mrs. Renfroe, who previously lived in Charlotte, now makes her home in Bowman, GA, where she works fulltime as a professional artist. A native of Anderson, SC, she studied art at the University of Georgia.

She has been painting professionally since 1978 and for several years ran an art gallery and frame shop with her husband in Elberton, GA. She currently exhibits in about 25 art shows each year.

In 1985, Mrs. Renfroe did a painting for Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Rural Electrification Administration. Titled, "REA—Lighting The Way," the painting was featured on the cover of Georgia EMC's monthly consumer magazine, *Rural Georgia*.

The artist currently offers signed-and-numbered limited edition print of several of her paintings, including "Rural Memories." That print, which is being issued to coincide with its publication on our cover, measures about 18 inches by 15 inches. Copies are priced at \$35 each, plus \$5 for shipping and handling.

Mail orders should be sent to The Renfroe Collection of Fine Art, Box 2, Bowman, GA 30624. For phone orders using major credit cards, call (404) 245-5357.



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Yokeley Heads Slate Of New Officers For Cooperative Council

Vance Yokeley, assistant general manager of Coble Dairy Products Cooperative, Lexington, has been elected chairman of the board of the North Carolina Cooperative Council.

He was elected at the 54th Annual Meeting of the council, which represents various cooperative organizations across the state.

Yokeley is the first council official to carry the title of chairman of the board. The post, which was previously known as president, was formally re-named during the Raleigh meeting.

Another name-change enacted by the organization gave the title of president to its chief executive officer.

That position previously carried the title of executive vice president. F. Carlyle Teague has held the post since December, 1981.

Other officers elected for the coming year were Charles Wood, manager of the North Carolina Region of Southern States Cooperative, Richmond, first vice chairman and Eugene W. Brown Jr., manager of Roanoke Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Rich Square, second vice chairman.

The council also named Barbara Deverick, cooperative affairs advisor at Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir, as an honorary director. She had served as a director since 1980.

Elected to the board were David R. McCue, interim executive vice president of North Carolina's statewide organization of EMCs; James E. Mangum Jr., manager of Wake EMC, Wake Forest; Brian Crutchfield, economic and community development manager at Blue Ridge EMC, Lenoir.

Also Eugene Van Hoy of World Citrus Corporation, Winston-Salem; Robert Thornton of Rt. 5, Clinton, a director of Star Telephone Membership Corporation (TMC), Clinton and Robert Holden, general manager of Randolph EMC, Asheboro.

Barbara Deverick, cooperative affairs advisor for Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, Lenoir, has been inducted into the Cooperative Hall of Fame of the National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA).

Mrs. Deverick, who has been with Blue Ridge EMC for more than 40 years, was selected for the national honor because of her many contributions to cooperative management and her leadership in advancing the cooperative movement.

Donald R. Armstrong, chairman of the NCBA's board, said she "has served Blue Ridge with great distinction, selfless dedication and inspired leadership."

He pointed out that the Hall of Fame designation is reserved as an honor solely for "those distinguished

cooperators whose contributions to the cooperative system have been genuinely heroic."

Others selected for the Hall of Fame along with Mrs. Deverick were former



Barbara Deverick Inducted Into National Co-op Hall of Fame

Tennessee Congressman Ed Jones and Frank B. Sollars, former chairman of the board of Nationwide Mutual Insur-

ance Company.

The Hall of Fame was established in 1974 to honor individuals whose contributions to co-ops have advanced the principles of cooperation and cooperative enterprise in the U.S. These newest inductees bring the total membership in the Hall of Fame to 62.

Mrs. Deverick is a past chair of the NCBA and currently serves on its board. She is also a member of the boards of the Cooperative Development Foundation, the National Rural Electric Cooperative International Foundation and the North Carolina Cooperative Council. She also serves on the NCBA's Overseas Cooperative Development Committee. And she is a former member of the board of the International Cooperative Alliance.



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To Restore Service

Winter Storms Keep EMCs Working Overtime

While schools and businesses were closing down during the February and March winter storms, Roy Vick was working harder than ever.

As manager of operations at Pitt & Greene Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Farmville, Vick had the difficult task of keeping power flowing to the EMC's consumer-members—despite snow, ice and high winds.

"We were working as hard as we could with as many people as we could get," said Vick, noting that the winter weather affected almost all of the EMC's 6,500 members.

Situations like this were experienced by most of North Carolina's EMCs during the winter blasts. The rugged weather kept EMC crews working overtime to get service restored to consumers.

—James (Eddie) Stocks/Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



A repairman moves into position to work on downed lines in the process of restoring service for consumer-members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC during the February winter storm. The co-op was one of several across the state that experienced extensive outage problems during severe late winter storms.

—Story by Randy Wheelless

For many EMCs, the reality of winter hit with a snow and ice storm on Feb. 17-18. A few days later, high winds and scattered tornadoes touched down across the state—causing another series of outages.

The next weekend dumped snow across the state, while the first week in March brought a coating of ice.

"We were just clearing up the first ice storm when the high winds got us," said Buddy Creech, director of operations and engineering at South River EMC, Dunn. "Then it seemed like another ice storm came right behind that."

The cooperatives' statewide Emergency Work Plan came to the aid of many of the hard-hit EMCs. The plan is coordinated through the Tarheel Electric Membership Corporation (TEMA), the central materials supply organization of the co-ops' statewide organization.

Under the plan, TEMA coordinates efforts to dispatch supplies and assistance to the co-ops that are most in need.

Falling limbs and melting ice from the most recent storm made outages a problem at various co-ops, including Haywood EMC, Waynesville, even as crews struggled to repair the damage.

"We would repair a spot at one place and a tree limb or something would knock out power down the road," said Vernon Bishop, manager of Haywood EMC's Lake Toxaway district office.

While line crews faced the elements outside, EMC employees manned the phones inside—keeping members informed on the repair progress.

"We estimated about 4,000 members out at one time. But judging from the telephone calls, it seemed like 20,000," said J. Michael Davis, general manager of Tri-County EMC, Dudley.

But the EMCs were relentless trying to restore power as quickly as possible under difficult circumstances.

"During the storms, it seemed like we'd work all day and have more outages at the end than when we started," said Vick. "But we all had to pitch in there and not stop until the job was done."

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HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

Volunteers Keep Roadsides Clean

Civic and community groups across North Carolina are providing valuable assistance to the state by participating in the N. C. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Adopt-A-Highway program, according to DOT officials.

The purpose of the program is to use volunteer organizations to clean roadsides—thus, allowing the state to save money on clean-up operations.



In order to adopt a highway, the volunteer groups must agree to pick up litter for a year along a selected two-mile section of roadway. All materials needed to clean the roads will be provided by the state, officials said.

In recognition of each participating group's efforts, DOT will erect a road sign

displaying the group's name to mark its adopted highway section.

For more information on the Adopt-A-Highway program, write to Jean Huske Dodd, Keep North Carolina Clean & Beautiful, Inc., P.O. Box 25201, Raleigh, NC 27611.

Veterans Group Plans Reunion

Members of the 17th Field Artillery Association are seeking veterans of the U.S. Army 17th Field Artillery who served in World War II and the Korean War.

The non-profit association organizes regular reunions for the veterans. The next reunion is scheduled for Sept. 11-13 in Carlisle, PA.

For more information, write or call E. R. Reep, Rt. 3, Box 58, Iron Station, NC 28080. Phone: (704) 735-3903.

Garden Symposium Slated In Raleigh

Noted gardening and decorating experts will be featured at the Mordecai Garden Symposium, May 18-20, in Raleigh.

Among those scheduled to address the



symposium will be New York designer Marco Polo Stufano, Burpee bulb consultant Brent Heath and North Carolina State Fair landscape director Tony Avent.

In addition to the speakers, the symposium will also be highlighted by a reception, picnic lunch and book sale.

Ticket prices vary for the symposium. For more information, contact the Mordecai Historical Society at 1 Mimosa St., Raleigh, NC 27604. Phone: (919) 834-4844.

Exhibit Features Award-winning Art

Works by the winners of the 1988-89 Southeastern Center of Contemporary Art (SECCA)/R. J. Reynolds Fellowships will be displayed in an exhibition at SECCA in Winston-Salem through May 21.

The winners include Tar Heel artists Martha M. Dunigan of Winston-Salem, Gina

Gilmour of Charlotte, Beth Sutherland formerly of Winston-Salem and Xavier Toubes of Chapel Hill.

For more information on this and other exhibits at SECCA, contact the center at 750 Marguerite Dr., Winston-Salem 27106. Phone: (919) 725-1904.

"Quilting Party" Scheduled At ASU

Classes, workshops and lectures with noted regional teachers will be highlighted at "An Appalachian Quilting Party," June 21-24, at Appalachian State University in Boone.

The seminar, sponsored by the Center for Appalachian Studies in cooperation with the Mountain Laurel Quilt Guild, will feature numerous activities, including a quilt show.



For more information, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (45 cents postage) to: Appa-

lachian Quilting Party, Office of Conferences and Institutes, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608.

Businessman Appointed To NCREA Board



An Elizabeth City businessman has been named to the board of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority (NCREA).

Rodney Robinson, president of Robinson and Son Funeral Home, was appointed to the post by Gov. James G. Martin. He succeeds Bobby Pigg of Tarboro, who resigned several months ago.

Robinson will serve the remainder of Pigg's term, which expires in June.

He received a bachelor's degree from Elizabeth City State University in 1977 and is a graduate of the Gupton-Jones School of Mortuary Science in Atlanta.

When Pigg resigned from the state agency board, he left the



HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

chairman's post vacant. His successor in that role is R. B. Sloan Jr., manager of engineering and operations at Crescent Electric Membership Corporation, Statesville.

NCREA is guided by a five-member board, which reviews loan applications from the state's electric and telephone cooperatives before they are submitted to the Rural Electrification Administration in Washington.

Celebration Will Mark Elkin's 100th Birthday

Elkin will celebrate its 100th birthday May 6-28 with a parade, entertainment and other festivities.



Numerous events will highlight the Elkin Centennial celebration, including band concert, tour of historic homes, art sale and fireworks.

For more information, write or call the town of Elkin, P.O. Box 857, Elkin, NC 28621. Phone: (919) 35-2255.

Cabarrus Festival Includes National Duckling Cookoff

The Concord National Duckling Cookoff will be featured at the 4th Annual Share Cabarrus Festival May 20 in Concord.

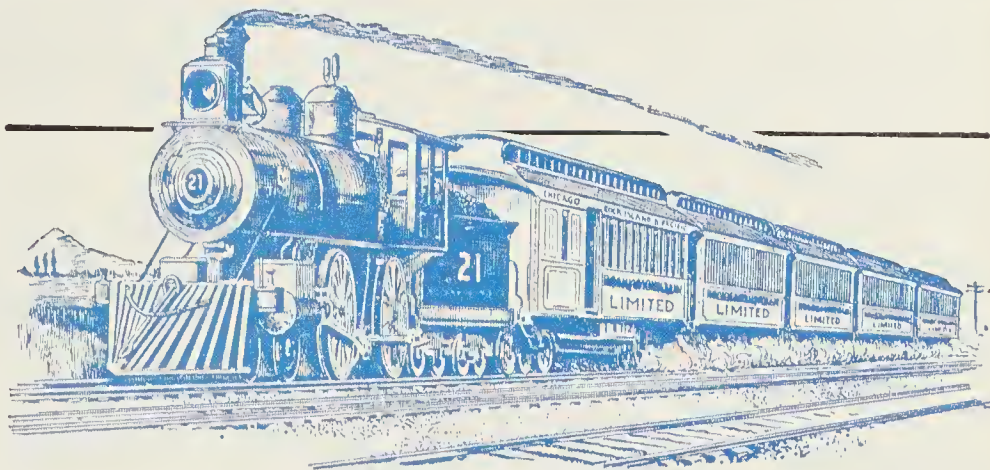
The festival, sponsored by the Concord-Cabarrus County Chamber of Commerce, will be highlighted by arts, crafts, entertainment, games and food.

For more information, write or call the Chamber at P.O. Box 1029, Concord, NC 28026. Phone: (704) 782-4111.

Seminar Slated

A two-day seminar on grist mill stone sharpening, babbitting and milling will be held in June in Moravian Falls.

For more information, write to Roger T. Jansen, Rt. 1, Box 206, Moravian Falls, NC 28654.



"Blue Ridge Special" To Asheville Will Run May 13 & 14

The popular "Blue Ridge Special" steam excursion will run again May 13 and 14. The train will leave the Salisbury depot at 7:30 a.m. both days for a daylong trip to Asheville.

A stop is set for Biltmore Village for shopping and lunch before the return to Salisbury about 9 p.m.

Sponsors for the two days of excursions are the N. C. Transportation History Corporation (NCTHC), the *Salisbury Post* and the Samuel Spencer Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society (NRHS).

Each day passengers will ride in air conditioned and un-air conditioned cars, and may visit the commissary car, offering snacks, drinks and sandwiches. The NCTHC will offer small railroad memorabilia for sale. Passengers are welcome to take bag lunches and suppers, small coolers and cameras.

Tickets are available from NCTHC at Spencer Shops. Mail orders to P.O. Box 44, 411 South Salisbury Ave., Spencer, NC 28159, Attn: Blue Ridge Special. Please enclose a large self-addressed stamped envelope to receive tickets by mail, and make checks and money orders payable to NCTHC.

No tickets will be mailed after May 5. Orders received after May 5 may be picked up at Spencer Shops, according to sponsors.

Tickets are priced at \$55 for all seats. Children under three years of age and not occupying a seat may ride free.

All proceeds will go to the N. C. Transportation History Corporation to aid in restoration and preservation of North Carolina transportation artifacts, according to Kelly Wrinn, Spencer Shops programs coordinator.

For more details, call Spencer Shops at (704) 636-2889.

Winslow Homer's "Images of Blacks" Featured In Exhibition

Paintings, drawings, watercolors and prints by American artist Winslow Homer will be displayed in an exhibition from May 6 through July 2 at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh.

Entitled, "Winslow Homer's Images of Blacks: The Civil War and Reconstruction Years," the exhibit will feature Homer's works from the 1860s and 1870s, along with other works from the period by his contemporaries.

The exhibition is being organized by the Menil Collection of Houston, TX, and is being supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information on the exhibition, contact the Museum at 2110 Blue Ridge Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27607. Phone: (919) 833-1935.



HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

(Continued from page 9)

Canton Youth Awarded Gwyn B. Price Scholarship

Stephen Robinson, a senior at Pisgah High School in Canton, has been awarded the 1989 Gwyn B. Price Youth Tour Scholarship from the Women's Advisory Committee of the statewide organization of Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs).

The Haywood County student is the son of Aileen Robinson of Rt. 1, Canton. Robinson represented Haywood EMC, Waynesville, on the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington last summer.



An "A" student in high school, Robinson is an Eagle Scout and a member of the school's National Honor Society and tennis team. He is planning to attend North Carolina State University in the fall.

The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a high school student selected from among the participants in the previous year's tour.

The recipient is chosen on the basis of scholastic achievement, financial need and extra-curricular activities in the school and community.

Each summer, about 40 Tar Heel students are chosen by EMCs across the state to participate in the week-long tour, with all expenses covered by the sponsoring cooperatives. The tour is coordinated by the N. C. Association of Electric Cooperatives.

The award bears the name of an Ashe County man who helped spearhead the development of electric co-ops in North Carolina.

Scholarship Presented To Co-op Youth Board Representative

A Wayne County high school senior has been awarded a \$500 scholarship from the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC) in recognition of his work as a member of a national cooperative youth board.

Kurt Buchanan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Buchanan of Dudley, received the award for his involvement in the Youth Consulting Board (YCB) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



He was selected to represent North Carolina on the board during the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington last summer. He was chosen from among the 42 Tar Heel high school students who participated in the tour.

The tour is coordinated by NCAEC each year, with participants sponsored by various cooperatives across the state.

Buchanan was sponsored on the 1988 tour by Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation, Dudley.

The scholarship was established earlier this year to recognize North Carolina's YCB representative each year. The YCB participates in various programs of the national association and serves as an advisory group regarding its youth activities.

Merle Watson Festival Set In Wilkesboro



Top country and bluegrass artists are scheduled to perform as part of the 2nd Annual Merle Watson Memorial Festival April 28-30 at the Wilkes Community College Gardens in Wilkesboro.

Among those slated to appear at the festival are "Doc" Watson, Bill Monroe, Emmylou Harris and John Hartford.

Eddy Merle Watson, "Doc" Watson's son, was killed in a tractor accident in 1985.

Adult tickets can be purchased daily with a three-day ticket available for \$30.

Proceeds from the event will support the Eddy Merle Watson Garden for the Senses at the Wilkes Community College Gardens. The garden is specifically designed for the visually handicapped with highly fragrant plants and information printed in Braille.

For more information on the festival, write or call the Merle Watson Festival, Wilkes Community College, P.O. Box 120, Wilkesboro, NC 28697. Phone: (919) 667-7136. Toll free: (800) 343-7857.

NCDA Names Two "Friends of Agriculture"

A 30-year state employee and an official of the North Carolina Agribusiness Council have been honored as "friends of agriculture" by the N.C. Department of Agriculture (NCDA).

They are Alex M. Lewis, NCDA's comptroller, who has been with the agency for 21 years; and Edmund Aycock, executive vice president of the business organization.

Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham cited Lewis for "his leadership and sustained extra effort in fiscal affairs." He lauded Aycock as a "distinguished agricultural and civic leader" who has "devoted more than 50 years of service to the people and businesses in agriculture."



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To Serve Summer Peak Loads

Outer Banks Generation Facilities Planned

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) is planning a generation project along the Outer Banks which will be used to cut summer peak power costs, according to NCEMC officials.

The effort will involve using diesel generators at two locations to provide power during critical power-use peaks in the summer months, when thousands of tourists place heavy demands on existing power supply facilities.

Tentative plans call for installing five generators at the site of the headquarters for Cape Hatteras EMC, Buxton and one generator at the Ocracoke branch office of Tideland EMC, Pantego.

The project is expected to cost about \$12 million.

"The generators will be used principally during the summer peak demands in the area, when our bulk power costs are at their highest," said David McCue, interim executive vice president of NCEMC.

"They may also be used on occasion to provide some power when our primary transmission service is interrupted. But these generators alone will not be able to serve the entire area during outages."

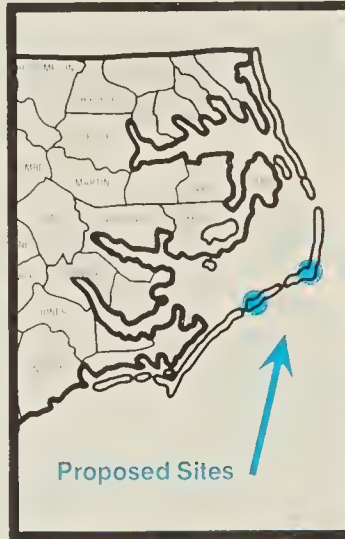
The new facilities will be owned by NCEMC and operated from its Raleigh headquarters. NCEMC is the power supplier for 27 of the state's EMCs, with much of the energy coming from private power companies. Power for the Outer Banks flows from North Carolina Power (Virginia Electric and Power Company).

McCue pointed out that the Outer Banks project is still subject to approval by certain regulatory commissions.

He said the environmental impact of the proposed facilities will be well within federal air and noise requirements and they will not disturb any existing wetlands or protected areas. No additional water supply will be needed for the generators, he added.

Construction on the two plants is expected to begin this fall with completion scheduled for mid-1990.

Currently, the Hatteras and Ocracoke area is served with a single transmission line that



brings power to the entire region. NCEMC officials said that the new generating facilities will bring needed back-up service to the area—service that could be crucial in case of an emergency.

"The way it stands now, if something happens to the transmission line on one end of the island, it affects the entire area," said McCue. "If an emergency situation calls for it, we will operate these generators to provide as much power to the area as we can."

The plants are normally expected to operate only during peak load periods—with most of that occurring in the summer months.

—Randy Wheeler

Blue Ridge EMC Director Elected To Co-op Financing Agency Board

Johnnie R. Austin, president and manager of Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Directors, Boone, has been elected to the 22-member Board of Directors of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC).

Austin, president of the Board of Directors at Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Lenoir, will represent CFC's District I, which encompasses New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina.



CFC, a private lending institution in Washington, DC, provides loans to electric and telephone cooperatives as a supplement to Rural Electrification Administration financing.

Austin succeeds James H. Garner of Rt. 2, Robbins as a director from District I. Garner, senior vice president and area executive with First Bank, Troy, and a member of the board at Randolph EMC, Asheboro, had completed six years on the CFC board—the maximum tenure allowed. For the past two years, Garner had served as CFC board president.

Austin has been a member of the Blue Ridge EMC Board of Directors since 1970. He represents the co-op on the board of the N. C. Association of Electric Cooperatives and is a past president of that board. He is active in civic affairs in Watauga County. He is currently on the board of First Union Bank in Boone, and is a former director of the Boone Area Chamber of Commerce and a former co-chairman of the Watauga United Way.



MAILBOX

Thanks For "Alerting Your Readers" Regarding Threat To Tax Exemption

In the March issue of *Carolina Country* read with great interest and concern the article ("Horizon") concerning the possibility that the federal tax exemption that has benefited older homeowners for years could be eliminated as Congress seeks new way to increase revenues.

Thank you for alerting your readers and I hope you will continue to remind us about legislation that we might learn about too late!

Already I have written my congressman and contacted a state director of the American Association of Retired Persons.

I urge others to do the same. We must not let this happen!

Mrs. R. H. Crockett, Jr.
Gastonia

Thanks For "Wonderful Publicity"

On behalf of the members of Gates County Historical Society, I wish to express our appreciation for the wonderful publicity you gave us in your January issue for our cookbook, *Favorite Recipes From Our Best Cooks*.

As a result of this publicity, we received 75 orders. Funds from these sales have been applied to our Courthouse Restoration Project, which will eventually provide us with not only a beautiful historical building, but also a place for our county library.

Anne H. Taylor
Winton

Retirement Communities Hope To Preserve "Public Confidence" In Such Facilities

The February issue of *Carolina Country* included an article ("Horizon") about regulation of continuing care retirement communities (CCRC's). For several years, the principal existing (and thriving) not-for-profit retirement communities have been taking steps to preserve the public's confidence in these communities. Specifically:

1. The North Carolina Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging assisted in drafting, and encouraging passage of, the existing statute. This law requires disclosure to the public including the results of actuarial analysis. The latter is a progressive provision not seen in most other state laws.

2. The American Association of Homes for the Aging developed guidelines for state regulation of CCRC's in mid-1987. Using these guidelines, the North Carolina association has developed new draft legislation for our state. This new legislation, if enacted, would provide for additional regulation in North Carolina. Knowing of his interest in, and knowledge about, this subject, the North Carolina Association has consulted Dr. Harry E. Groves in the process of developing new requirements.

(Dr. Groves, Henry Brandis professor of law emeritus at UNC-CH, was mentioned in the February column as a leader in the effort for stronger legislation governing CCRC's.)

That new legislation in our state, and other states for that matter, has been necessary is regrettable. It does add inevitable additional costs and encumbrances. Nonetheless, a few sleazy or poorly planned projects can threaten the public's confidence in even the best operated communities, if there are not clear ways the public can differentiate among them. It is for those reasons that North Carolina's leading non-profit communities have been the most persistent advocates of public knowledge, actuarial reports and now, tougher regulation.

We hope that just as you raised your concerns with your readers in February, you will inform them also of the positive steps being taken to address those concerns soon. Our service to older adults is distinguished by integrity, quality and success. We want to do everything possible to discourage those with lesser commitments from entering this field.

John Diffey
Chapel Hill

John A. Diffey is executive director of Carol Woods Retirement Community in Chapel Hill and president of the North Carolina Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging.



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With greenery brightening the countryside and crops beginning to show in the fields, springtime is a season when most North Carolinians need no reminders that their state produces lots of good things to eat.

Still, they get regular reminders whenever they visit supermarkets and see the "Goodness Grows in North Carolina" label on food products.

The "Goodness Grows" program of the N.C. Department of Agriculture (NCDA), which is now in its third year of steady growth and progress, has been co-ordinated from the start by Teresa Hamby of NCDA's Marketing Division.

A total of 112 Tar Heel food producers are now participating in the program, she said.

"The vendors in the program range from the very large to the very small, and include some of the nation's best-known names. But we would like to see additional food producers join in this effort."

Joining the program entitles the vendor to use the distinctive emblem on items for sale and in advertising materials. They also enjoy the benefits of special on-going pro-

motions of North Carolina products on the part of NCDA. That includes radio spots featuring a "Goodness Grows" jingle and ads in various publications.

In 1988, the effort also included a "barn" exhibit at the Kerr

pork products and even Pepsi-Cola, the soft drink that actually got its start in North Carolina.

Also on the list are House-Autry Mills of Newton Grove, a major corn meal producer, Concord Farms of Concord, the

called C-Loaf. A holiday season favorite is Stegall Smoked Turkey, which is marketed widely from Marshville in Union County.

The list of "Goodness Grows" items includes several brands from Tar Heel

major crops: cucumbers. They are Mt. Olive Pickles and Cates Pickles in Faison.

Quality country hams sold under the program's seal are processed by Hancock's Old Fashion Country Ham of Franklinville, Hickory Mountain Farms of Siler City, Grandy Farm Market and Wayco Corporation of Goldsboro, makers of Waynesboro Country Hams.

Hamby pointed out that there is no charge for vendors to enroll in the NCDA program, but there are strict requirements. Each item must be

made with at least

51 percent North Carolina ingredients. And it must be top quality. If the processor sells more than one line in a given product, only the top line can qualify. In addition, product samples must accompany the enrollment form and the product must be evaluated by a panel of specialists.

For more information, write or call Mrs. Hamby at: Goodness Grows in North Carolina, Division of Marketing, N. C. Dept. of Agriculture, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611. Phone: (919) 733-7912.

NCDA Program Encompasses Products From 112 Processors

Scott Building during the North Carolina State Fair, showcasing two dozen of the program's participants. A similar project is planned for the 1989 fair, featuring a "country store" format.

In addition, NCDA's marketing specialists coordinate special shows promoting Tar Heel products in North Carolina and other states.

The list of "Goodness Grows" vendors includes many top names in their fields: Holly Farms and Perdue poultry, House of Raeford turkey products, Lundy Packing of Clinton with its full line of

nation's No. 2 producer of choice ducklings, and Duplin Wine Cellars of Rose Hill.

One of the best-known names on the list is T.W. Garner Food Company of Winston-Salem, but it is known primarily through its "Texas Pete" hot sauce. The company also markets a full line of jellies and jams.

Another familiar name is that of Neese Country Sausage of Greensboro. The company makes sausage (hot or mild) as well as liver pudding, scrapple, souse meat and a special item

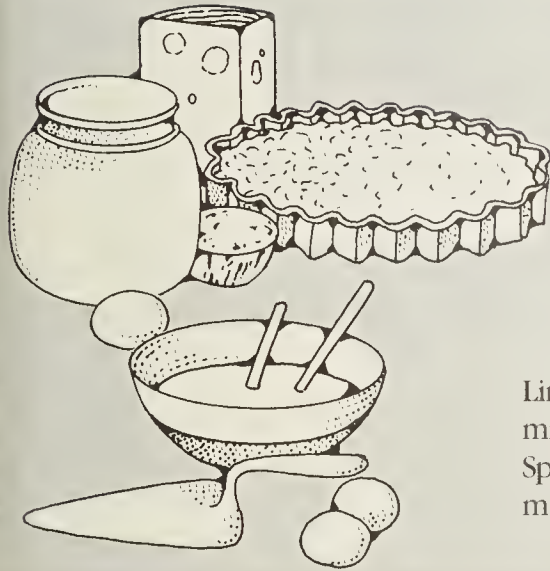
dairies: Pine State Creamery in Raleigh, Coble

Dairies in Lexington, Maola in New Bern, Carolina Dairies in Kinston and Mello Buttercup of Wilson. Another is Milkco Dairy of Asheville, which produces milk under the Sealtest label and also for grocery chain private labels. Milkco also sells bottled water under the Land O'Sky label.

Other familiar names in the "Goodness Grows" fold include processors of one of the state's



COUNTRY KITCHEN



Crabmeat Quiche

Submitted by Milford S. Mann, Swan Quarter

Standard pie crust	1 pkg. (6 oz.) crabmeat
3 eggs, beaten	2 C. (8 oz.) cheddar
1/4 C. mayonnaise	cheese, shredded
2 Tbsp. all purpose flour	1/3 C. onion, chopped
1/2 C. Milk	

Line quiche dish with standard pie crust and bake five minutes at 400 degrees. Combine remaining ingredients. Spoon mixture into pie crust. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Delicious!

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BOOKS

The Cliffs by Thomas Powell. Goldwayne Publishers, Goldsboro. 107 pages. \$5.

Many of us are interested in how people lived in Eastern North Carolina in the Civil War and while others like to read about the war itself.

This 107-page "novelette," as the author describes it, offers both these elements in a very appealing style. While the central character of the book appears to be Thomas Matthew Applewood, who is called "Matt" by everyone but his mother, the real star is a man named Cyrus. He tells Matt about the happenings that have gone before.

So we have tranquil pages of folks building houses, creating farms from woodland, barging materials on the river and other pleasant vistas. But the savagery of the Civil War intrudes into the scene, with the young men of the Goldsboro riding off to fight for the Confederacy. They are behind the over-age marksmen of the Home Guard to fight a losing battle against the fresh Union infantrymen of the 9th New Jersey and field artillery.

We also read of the rape of a young woman, despite efforts of her young son to defend her—and then of the son's revenge.

We read of happy weddings, births and holidays, when the finest foods were put on the table. We also read of people dying, of the hardships when rations were "short" or non-existent and of the sad lot that faced orphaned children.

The historical data seems authentic and the author gives credit to the Wayne County Historical Association for its assistance, and to the *History of Wayne County, North Carolina*, edited by Bob Johnson and Charles S. Norwood Sr.

The setting for the story is the Cliffs of the house, a few miles from Goldsboro, where much of the action took place.

An interesting aspect is the friendship between young Matt Applewood and his narrator, Cyrus, who is a descendant of slaves.

Several photographs illustrate the volume.

You can order *The Cliffs* by writing to Goldwayne Publishers, P.O. Box 404, Goldsboro, NC 27533. The \$5 price includes mailing charges.

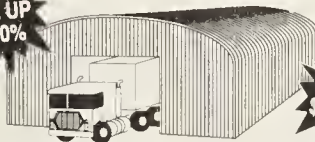
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—Frank Jeter

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WASHINGTON SCENE

Battles Undermine Bush Bi-partisanship Efforts

President Bush came to the White House exuding wishes of bi-partisanship with the Congress and seemed to go out of his way to stress this at every opportunity. But his budget proposals and the bitter fight over his nomination of John Tower to be Secretary of Defense seem to have done much to damage that feeling.

Deeply involved in these battles were two Bush aides who have drawn criticism for their handling of these affairs.

Robert G. Darman, who is the new director of the Office of Management and Budget, is credited with the Bush budget strategy. Some observers think he may have been too clever for Bush's sake.

Democrats in Congress think Darman was the one responsible for the plan to let Bush take credit for increasing spending for selected domestic programs while leaving the cuts to Congress.

When Darman appeared before the Senate Budget Committee, Sen. Fritz Hollings (D-SC) was blunt. "You are more Jack-be-nimble than David Stockman," he told Darman.

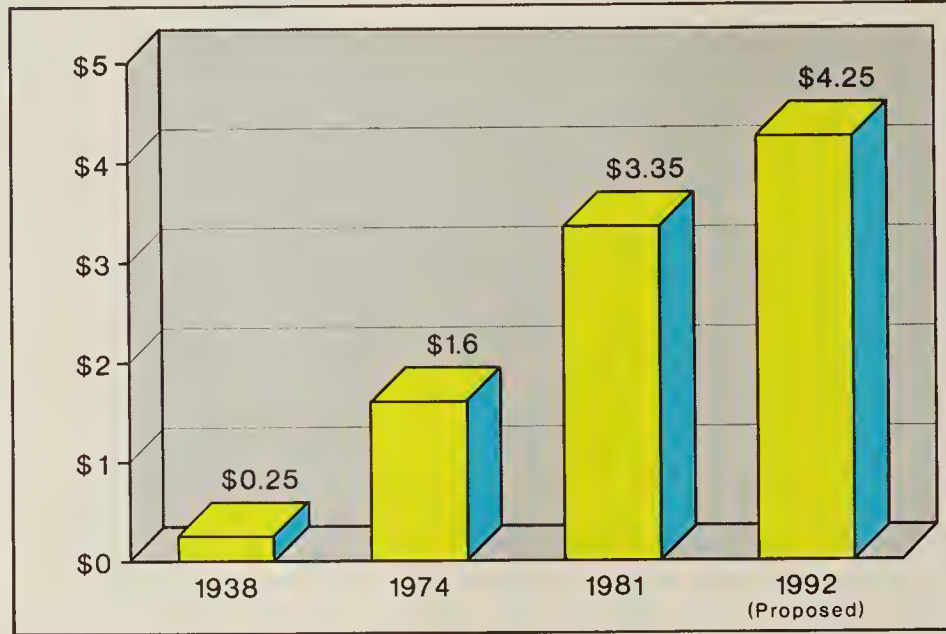
Stockman was Reagan's budget chief, who is often called the architect of the policies that have caused the huge national debt.

Bush's budget and the way it was presented have inspired some members of Congress to say they'll come up with their own budget.

Under the Gramm-Rudman law, the budget for the next year must be reduced to \$100 billion or there will be cuts across the board except for Social Security and veteran's benefits.

The other Bush aide who has been criticized is his chief of staff, John Sununu, the former Governor of New Hampshire. Sununu is new in Washington and critics say it showed during the Tower confirmation battle.

He predicted that Tower would be approved during the committee hearings, saying, "We have the votes." He was wrong. Then he predicted approval by the full Senate, saying the margin of victory would be provided by Democrats who "are leaning nicely." Wrong, again.



To \$4.25 In 1992

Hike Proposed For Minimum Wage

For the first time in the 1980s, a proposal has come from the White House to increase the minimum wage.

When Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole went before the Senate Labor Committee last month to advocate raising the wage to \$4.25 by 1992, it marked a departure from the policies of the Reagan administration on the part of the Bush White House. The rate wasn't as high as some congressmen would prefer, but the proposal was generally welcomed on Capitol Hill.

The idea of a minimum wage started with President Franklin Roosevelt, as did many changes in American life during the dark days of the 1930s, when the country was suffering from its greatest depression. Under Roosevelt, the wage was pegged at 25 cents an hour, a revolutionary act at the time. Before that, many children worked in mines and factories for wages of a dime per hour.

Over the years, the minimum wage has advanced until in the 1970s it reached \$3.35 an hour, which is where it stands today. During the '80s, it has stayed there despite efforts in Congress to increase it.

The Bush proposal, as outlined by Secretary Dole, would raise the wage by stages during the next three years to \$4.25. It also would have a short-term lower wage—a "sub-minimal" wage—for youths entering the work force. The beginners' wage would be in the area of \$3 per hour.

There will be some argument with Congress about this. Many members of Congress want the wage to go up to \$4.65 by 1992, and some object to the lower wage for first time workers.

But the fundamentals for agreement are there, which means some sort of increase in the minimum wage is almost certain to come out of Washington this year.

One Congress observer said the minimum wage needs to be raised just to keep up with inflation.

"Back in the 1930s," he pointed out, "you could get a haircut for a quarter, or an hour's work. Today at a \$4.50 minimum, you can just about get a haircut for an hour's work—if you can find the right barber shop."



WASHINGTON SCENE

Bush Trumpets His Pet Projects But Leaves Budget-Cutting To Congress

When President Bush appeared before Congress to deliver his budget message, he was roundly cheered by Republicans and Democrats alike.

The President told them much of what they wanted to hear as he belled out his spending proposals. They welcomed his plans to spend more on drug enforcement and his ideas to fund child care and merit schools.

After the speech, senators and representatives trooped over to the tundra of the Capitol and lauded the President for his "kinder, gentler" approach to government.

But in a few days, after reading the budget's fine print, many members of Congress were crying foul.

Indeed, experts who studied the budget declared that in many respects the Bush budget is more restrictive than the budget that Reagan had submitted earlier.

"The President has given us a thousand points of light," said Sen. John Sasser (D-TN), "but he forgot to include any batteries."

Sasser, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, was referring to Bush's campaign promise to bring a "thousand points of light" to the nation's capital.

What they found in the Bush budget was the elimination of 82 domestic programs, including Amtrak, mass transit grants, the rural electrification program and legal services for the poor.

Those who had faced the television cameras with praise for the President's speech felt duped, and they said so.

Members from both parties, particularly Democrats, felt that Bush had simply announced the program he wants to help with additional money and had left it to Congress to make the painful cuts required if the budget is to be reduced substantially.

Nowhere was this more evident than in the House Committee on Agriculture, where members on both sides of the aisle generally criticized the new Secretary of Agriculture, Clayton Yeutter, as he presented the Bush plan to reduce funds by \$4.5 billion.

This included phasing out the Rural Electrification Administration programs and cutting funds for the Farmers Home Administration by 40 percent. The combined cuts for those two programs, totaling more than \$2 billion, were strongly protested by both Republicans and Democrats.

The Bush proposal on REA was essentially the same as the phase-out program Reagan tried to initiate for the eight years he was in the White House.

Under a plan which was spearheaded by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think tank, Reagan year after year sent Congress a budget ending REA's loan capabilities and year after year Congress rejected the effort.

Many members had hoped for better treatment from the Bush White House and were disappointed. They said so in no uncertain terms, warning the House Budget Committee not to agree with the agriculture proposals.

Rural Development To Be A Key Issue In Congress

Rural economic development is emerging as a major issue facing the 101st Congress as the Senate Agriculture Committee chairman plans to push for passage of a rural development bill this year.

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) said, "Rural America has been left out of the economic recovery. I take President Bush's campaign promises to help rural America seriously."

Meanwhile, Rep. Mike Synar (D-OK) has called on President Bush to "reject past proposals to end funding for the tools of economic development available to rural America." He also urged Bush to end the Reagan-era crusade to eliminate the Rural Electrification Administration, saying the federal agency's loan programs help the nation's co-ops provide electricity and "the impetus for other economic and community development."

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May 26-28

About 4,000 Expected For 65th Union Grove Festival

An estimated 4,000 people are expected to converge on Union Grove for the Ole Time Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival May 26-28.

The festival, which was first held in 1924, will take place at the Fiddler's Grove Campground. The entertainment will be featured at the outdoor amphitheater.

More than 500 artists are expected to participate with numerous fiddling competitions taking place.

Popular Christian entertainer Nancy Honeytree will perform during the final day of the festival along with numerous other regional and national dance, music and storytelling entertainers.

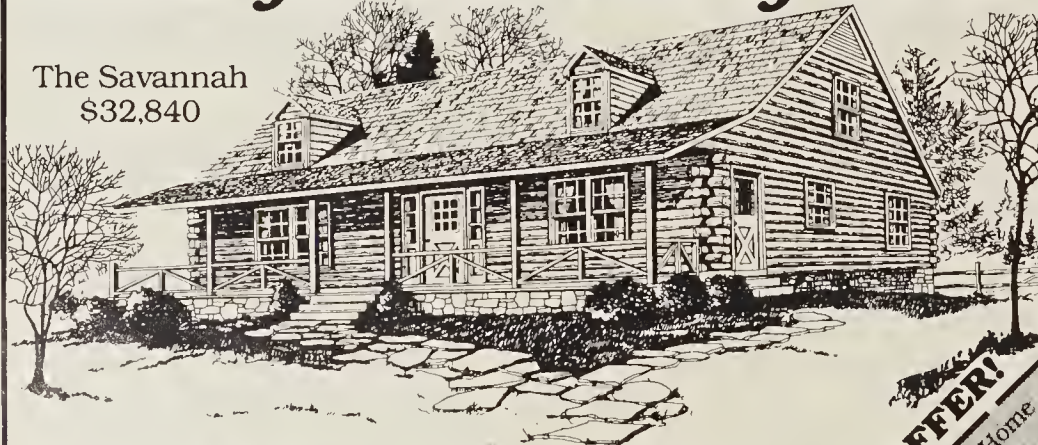
For more information on the festival, contact Harper A. Van Hoy, P.O. Box 11, Union Grove, NC 28689. Phone: (704) 539-4417.



Spectators tune up for an impromptu performance at a previous Ole Time Fiddler's and Bluegrass Festival in Union Grove.

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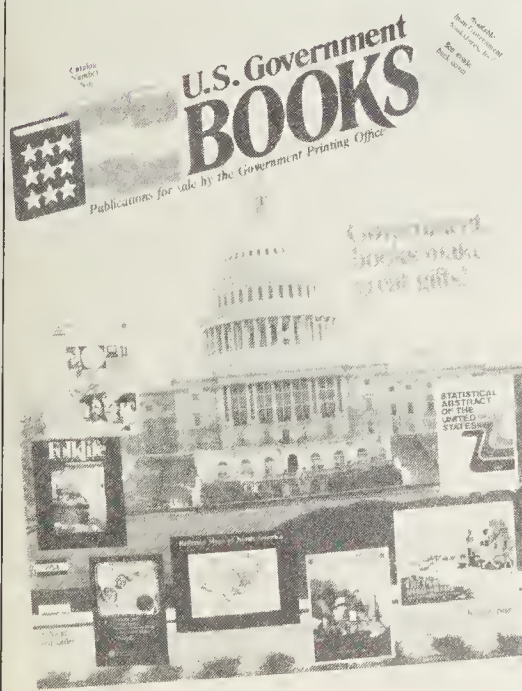
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Essay Contest Offers Cash

Student Sleuths Assigned To The Case Of The Missing Milk Crates

The Carolina/Virginia Dairy Products Association is sponsoring an essay contest for students offering suggestions for reducing thefts of milk crates.

Nearly one million of the plastic and aluminum crates are stolen each year from the North Carolina and Virginia dairy industry—at a cost of nearly \$2 million, according to industry officials.

That cost is eventually passed along to consumers, they said.

Used to hold containers of milk, these crates have become popular with college students and apartment dwellers since they can hold numer-

ous items and can be easily stacked.

The contest is open to all students in North Carolina and Virginia, with a top prize of \$500 being offered in each state. Each state will award prizes in three categories: junior high, senior high and technical/community college.

Entries must be typewritten or legi-

bly handwritten and they must be at least 500 words in length. Essays will be judged on the basis of originality, clarity, content and applicability to the problem. Each entry must be accompanied by a cover sheet bearing the name of the writer, name of student's school, full mailing address and home phone number.

**Deadline for entries
is May 8.**

For more information, or to submit entries, contact the Contest Director, Carolina/Virginia Dairy Products Association, P.O. Box 3159, Durham, NC 27715. Phone: (919) 382-0333.

EMC Employees Credit Union

Still "Going Strong" After 20 Years

The EMC Employees Credit Union celebrates its 20th anniversary this month, marking a major milestone for a financial institution that now serves employees of cooperatives in a four-state region.

Chartered in 1969, the Raleigh-based credit union has grown from meager beginnings to an organization with assets in excess of \$10 million. However, its original mission of providing friendly, convenient financial services has remained unchanged.

"The EMC Employees Credit Union has worked because managers, directors and employees of Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs) wanted it to work," said Jim Chaney, the credit union's first manager and a retired editor of *Carolina Country* magazine.

"Banking was an inconvenience for EMC employees before the credit union," Chaney added. "There were banks, but they were complicated and impersonal."

The credit union provided an alternative to the traditional bank because it was operated and staffed by co-op employees.

In addition, the credit union maintained its headquarters in Raleigh, but each participating co-op had its own loan officer—a co-op employee who volunteered time and effort to help fellow employees. With this friendly structure, the credit union was an immediate success.

"It got off to a running start, and it has been going strong ever since," said Ann S. Curren, staff assistant at Wake EMC, Wake Forest, and a veteran credit union board member.

Chaney said the credit union began without a blueprint for how it was to be operated. But he drew on his previous experience as a member of the board of the Raleigh *News and Observer* Credit Union.

"It took a lot of imagination and conviction to make the credit union successful," he said. "There were so many people who have given unselfishly of their time to make it work."

Employees from 20 North Carolina electric cooperatives made up the original membership in 1969. Later, membership was opened to employees of electric co-ops in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware, and to employees of telephone cooperatives in all four states. The current membership totals almost 4,000.

The credit union has changed dramatically

during the past two decades, too. At the outset, the operation had no full-time employees and an employee of another credit union handled the bookkeeping chores. An outside computer system kept up with the organization's records.

Today, the EMC Employees Credit Union has eight employees working at its offices in the Raleigh headquarters building of North Carolina's statewide organization of EMCs.

Membership and assets have grown steadily over the past few years, according to Manager Kay Vause.

"We've made some great strides over the past five years," Vause said. "Our assets and members have practically doubled."

With the expansion of members and assets, the list of services provided has also grown. Credit cards, certificates of deposit and home mortgages are just a few of the many services that have been introduced in recent years.

"Credit unions have a unique philosophy, and we subscribe to it here at the EMC Employees Credit Union," said Vause. "We're a friendly organization; our members feel comfortable dealing with us. That's why credit unions are so popular—and it's one of the reasons we've been able to thrive amid stiff competition over the years."



At Clarence Poe Home 1989 Showhouse Slated In Raleigh

A total of 31 interior designers from across the state will coordinate designs for rooms in the 1989 ASID Designer Showhouse at the home of the late Clarence Poe of Raleigh, who served for many years as editor of *The Progressive Farmer*.

Known as "Longview," the 12-room Georgian Revival house was built in 1925 on a hill overlooking the Neuse River and Crabtree Creek. It was built with stone quarried on the 800-acre property. Since 1987, the home has been restored by members of Poe's family.

The showhouse, sponsored by the North Carolina Museum of History Associates, is slated for April 23 through May 14. It will be open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Individual day tickets are \$8 in advance, \$9 at the door. Run-of-the-show tickets are \$12. Tickets may be ordered from Mrs. Richard B. Hardy III, 921 Vance St., Raleigh, NC 27608. A Preview Party is set for 5 p.m. April 22. For details, call (919) 733-3076 in Raleigh.



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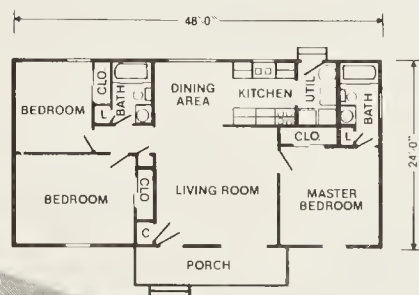
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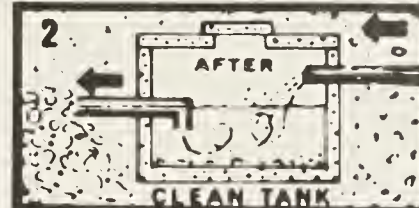
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Attracting retired people to live in your state or community has long been described as a means of bringing in a desirable "non-polluting" industry.

That's why the State of North Carolina has taken steps to make the state an attractive place for retirees—in financial terms. Under current state laws, retirees get a big break when income tax time comes around through generous exemptions.

Social Security benefits for all retirees are exempt from state income tax. And additional exemptions are allowed for special groups of retirees.

These tax breaks are outlined in detail in this month's column.

State Offers Tax Breaks To Help Keep and Attract Retired People

Retired people can add a lot to a state or community. They have steady incomes and they're not subject to plant closings and layoffs. They also make good steady customers for local businesses.

Retirees seldom have children in the public school system, but they do pay property taxes on their dwellings and sales taxes on their purchases.

The county sheriff almost never has to lock them up in his jail, and they often do community volunteer work for churches, fund drives and other worthy purposes.

Younger retirees, which include many from the military services, also bring an assortment of talents that can help provide manpower for local businessmen.

Many of the older retirees also do useful work, either full-time or part-time.

As a group, such folks are so desirable that the State of North Carolina has made it official state policy to induce them to live in the Tar Heel state by offering special tax benefits. The benefits vary by groups.

Perhaps the best package is that provided to those covered by the North Carolina Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System. Their annuity payments, after retirement, are completely exempt from North Carolina income tax. (They still must pay the federal income tax.) In fact, they get an exemption on the six percent payroll deduction which goes to provide the future annuity.

But many people do not know that another group of public employees enjoy this same benefit. These are county, city, law enforcement and other public employees enrolled in the N. C. Local Government Employees Retirement System. Current figures show that some 75,000 local government retirees are on the rolls. They also get complete North Carolina income tax exemption, along with Council of Government

employees—those who work for such groups as local housing authorities, fire departments and variety of other agencies.

The exemption also extends to the N. C. Law Enforcement Officers' Benefit and Retirement Fund.

Naturally, this means that many public employees on the state and local level want to stay right here in their home state after retirement.

Another level of exemption applies to federal retirees, those who served in the military services and those who had Civil Service jobs. Since 1973, federal annuitants have been allowed a \$3,000 deduction on their retirement pay, but must pay tax on any remaining.

This figure is applicable for the 1988 North Carolina tax returns that are even now going in. But due to action of the General Assembly in 1988, the deductible amount for 1989 will increase from \$3,000 to \$4,000. This will apply on returns filed by April 15, 1990.

North Carolina's generous tax breaks for public service retirees could be eliminated. See box for details.

This may raise the question: What sort of allowance does North Carolina make for people who retire from a furniture factory, retail store, textile mill or other private business?

Even in this case North Carolina welcomes retirees—but less so than public employees.

Under current law, all Social Security benefits are completely exempt from North Carolina income tax. Even the federal government is not this generous; on the Form 1040 your Social Security income may be partially taxable, especially in higher income brackets. But you get a complete exemption from North Carolina.

So the Tar Heel state does make retirees welcome. It does not go to the extent of such retirement meccas as Florida or Arizona; in fact

8 states have even better economic packages to attract retired folks.

The state keeps many of its own folks while so attracting them from other states. The inducements can range from being near family members to the convenient access to the seashore or mountains.

Resort towns in the mountains wouldn't be the same were it not for the "Florida people" who move in, and retirement communities abound in all parts of the state.

As one older gentleman said: "Where else can you play golf twelve months a year?"

In General Assembly

Public Service Retirees' Tax Breaks May Be Cut

Retirees from public service now enjoy some generous tax breaks, but this may change during the current session of the North Carolina General Assembly.

Under a proposal presented to the lawmakers by the North Carolina Tax Fairness Commission, the exemptions now given retired state employees, teachers, local government and law enforcement people would be eliminated.

A sliding scale of exemptions would be substituted, but they would be less generous across the board. The sliding scale would exempt 100 percent of the first \$6,000, 75 percent of the next \$1,500 and 50 percent of the next \$1,500.

But this law is still a long way from enactment. The affected groups are expected to put up a battle to keep current benefits, and all legislators would be involved in any decision on this issue.

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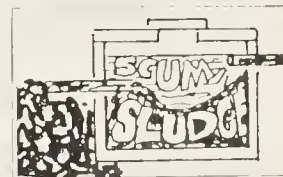
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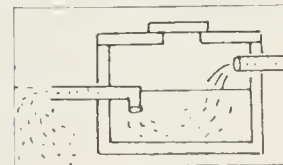
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HANK'S GARDENING GUIDE

The alarm clock has sounded for gardens and gardeners—the “wake-up” call for activity. Spring-flowering trees, shrubs and bulbs are the colorful results of your autumn labors. Enjoy!



Sowing Seed Outdoors

A safe guide to follow when planting seed outdoors is to watch maple trees. When their small leaf buds begin to swell and unfold, nature indicates that it's safe to get seed in the ground. Very seldom will there be killing frosts or freezes after maples begin leafing-out.

Blooms For The Shade

There are no plants that will produce blooms in total or heavy shade. The best solution is a perennial ground cover such as ajuga, periwinkle, English ivy or pachysan-

dra. A location that receives 50-to-60 percent shade is ideal for the showy fancy-leaf caladium.

If your shade trees are large and tall enough so a few hours of sunlight reach the soil beneath them, you may have luck with cleome (spider plant), balsam, impatiens, godetia, lobelia, torenia or nasturtium.

Among shrubs suited to shade growth are mahonia, aucuba (gold dust bush), calycanthus (sweet-shrub), deutzia, kerria, viburnum, boxwood, hydrangea and the hollies.

Azalea Leaf Gall

Azalea leaf gall causes “cauliflower ear” of azalea and camellia sasanqua (fall flowering camellia). Leaves become thick and fleasy, with galls covered in white powdery material.

Although unsightly, the disease is not serious. Best control is to pick and burn.

Plant Summer Bulbs Soon

Summer bulbs soon will be planted in the open garden. This group covers dahlias



and cannas if you dug and stored yours last fall. Others to be planted include gladiolus, tuberose, fancy-leaf caladium, and crinum lilies.

By planting gladiolus every two weeks until mid-July, you'll have a constant supply of cut flowers this summer.

Don't Forget The After Care of Bulbs

If your plantings of spring-flowering bulbs have become crowded, you'll want to separate them after this year's show. Just as soon as the tops turn brown, dig and let them dry in a cool place. If the bulb bed is uncrowded, leave the bulbs in the ground and plant shallow-rooted annuals like petunia, portulaca or nasturtium over them. These will mask the ripening bulb foliage and add flower color to the bed.

While bearded

irises are in bloom, tie a cord or thread on those that are desirable in color and free from insects and diseases. Poor plants should be dug and discarded as blooms fade.

Old bloom stalks of all irises should be cut. The formation of seed is a drain on the plant's energy. In most cases, seed that are saved and planted will produce blooms somewhat inferior to those of the parent plant.

Potted Easter lily bulbs can be planted outdoors just as soon as their blooms fade. Plant them eight to ten inches deep in rich soil. Mulch heavily in winter.

In most cases, Easter lily bulbs that are left in pots will not bloom during the next season.

Propagate by Layering

Azaleas, winter jasmine, climbing roses, forsythia and oriental magnolias are among those plants that are easily propagated by layering.

Slit a low-growing branch at a node (joint), pull the branch over to the ground and place the slit in a shallow trench. Cover with soil and weight

down with a stone or brick.

After roots appear on the branch, cut it away from the mother and place in a pot of rich soil where it will grow for a year; or plant directly in the garden area.

Use Herbicide On Lawn Weeds

Spot-treat established weeds in the lawn with a non-selective herbicide. For ease of application, pour the amount of weed killer needed into an empty plastic detergent bottle. Squirt directly onto the offending weed and nothing else. Dispose of detergent bottle after use.

Be Prepared

Now's the time to take an inventory of insecticides you have in preparation for fighting insects that are bound to appear the garden later on. Your local garden center will have the latest recommendations for materials to combat these pests.

And, you'll want to have a supply of fertilizers on hand in order to keep plants healthy and productive. Also check garden tools and watering hoses.

By Hank Smith



CHECKLIST (To Do Now)

- ☐ Make certain that the rose bed has these important health factors: good drainage, plenty of sunlight, control of insects and diseases.
- ☐ Protect tender vegetable and flower transplants from wind and sun by shading with leafy branches cut from trees and shrubs. Stick the branches in the ground among the transplants.
- ☐ Apply mulches such as pine straw, compost, and ground leaves to all plants to control weeds and conserve moisture.
- ☐ Keep strawberries well watered. Moisture is essential to good berry formation.
- ☐ Remove all seed pods from rhododendrons. After plants flower, snip off pods carefully with thumb and forefinger.
- ☐ Dig and re-set established mum plants when they are about three inches tall. Dig the clump, re-set the vigorous outer shoots; discard the center of plant.
- ☐ Mow fescue lawns when it is three inches high.
- ☐ Fertilize roses and spray weekly with a fungicide.



Annual Meetings Calendar

Date	Electric Membership Corporation	Time	Location
April			
15	French Broad, Marshall	Registration: 3:00 p.m. Business Meeting: 6:00 p.m.	Madison High School, Marshall By-Pass, Marshall
28	Piedmont, Hillsborough	Registration: 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 8:00 p.m.	Orange High School Auditorium, Hillsborough
May			
6	Harkers Island, Harkers Island	Registration: 3:30 p.m. Business Meeting: 4:30 p.m.	Harkers Island School, Harkers Island
20	Randolph, Asheboro	Registration: 12:00 Noon Business Meeting: 1:30 p.m.	Southwestern Randolph High School, 6 miles southwest of Asheboro
June			
10	Blue Ridge, Lenoir	Registration: 8:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 9:30 a.m.	Ashe Central High School, Jefferson

Rooting Crape Myrtles

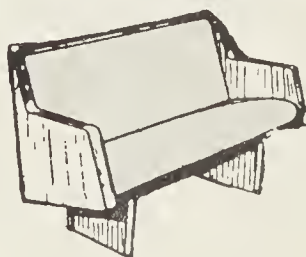
Now's a good time to root cuttings of the ever-popular crape (or crepe) myrtle. This showy summer-flowering shrub sometimes is called "summer lilac," due to the large clusters of blossoms.

Remove a branch and cut it into six-inch lengths. Dip the base of each cutting into a root-inducing hormone. Place cuttings in a container of clean sand. Keep moist.

Crape myrtles root quickly. Feed with light applications of a complete fertilizer. New plants will be 12 to 18 inches tall by late summer. Some may produce blooms.

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Cookbooks: Favorite Recipes From Ocracoke Island Cooks

The recipes here are reprinted from two cookbooks published by the United Methodist Women of Ocracoke Island to support various projects of the Ocracoke United Methodist Church.

The Shrimp Newberg recipe is from the group's 1957 cookbook while the Fig Cake recipe is from the organization's newest collection of recipes, which was published in 1978.

Both these softcover volumes are still available. The "original" 24-page cookbook is priced at \$2.25 while the 118-page 1978 edition is \$5.50. Add \$1.25 for postage and handling. Mail orders to Mrs. Emilie C. Wilkes, P.O. Box 328, Ocracoke, NC 27960.



Fig Cake

(Ocracoke's Most Popular Cake)

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 C. salad oil | 1 Tsp. cinnamon |
| 1½ C. sugar | 1 Tsp. salt |
| 3 eggs | ½ C. buttermilk |
| 1 Tsp. soda, dissolved
in a little hot water | 1 Tsp. vanilla |
| 2 C. flour | 1 C. preserved figs,
chopped |
| 1 Tsp. nutmeg | 1 C. chopped nuts |
| 1 Tsp. allspice | |

Beat 3 eggs, add sugar and oil. After sifting dry ingredients, add to egg mixture alternately with buttermilk. Add vanilla and fold in figs and nuts. Pour into greased oblong pan and bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes to one hour, or in a well-greased tube pan at 350 degrees just a little longer.

Chopped dates may be substituted for figs.

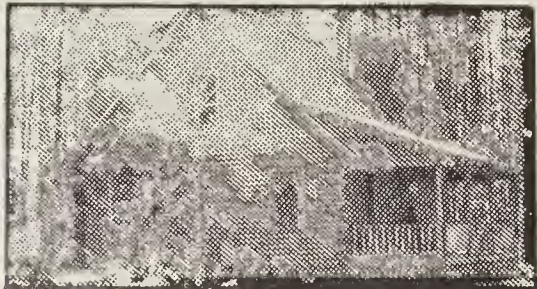
Shrimp Newberg

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Tbsp. butter | 1 lb. shrimp, cooked |
| 1¾ Tbsp. flour | Salt, Paprika and
Cayenne pepper |
| 1 C. cream | 2 Tbsp. Sherry |
| 3 Tbsp. tomato catsup | |
| ¾ Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce | |

Melt 2 tbsp. butter, stir in until blended 1 Tbsp. flour, stir in slowly 1 C. cream. When sauce is thick, stir in 3 tbsp. tomato catsup and ¾ tbs Worcestershire sauce. Remove shells and clean 1 lb. of cooked shrimp. Add to the sauce and stir together until they are well heated.

Season with salt, paprika and a few grains cayenne pepper. Immediately before serving add 2 tbsp. sherry. Serve in a grits ring or over rice.

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In 1988 Co-ops Paid Federal Agencies Nearly \$4 Billion More Than They Borrowed

Last year consumer-owned rural electric utilities paid the federal government nearly \$4 billion more than they borrowed from the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) and the Federal Financing Bank (FFB).

Rural electric loan programs administered by the REA brought in a net of \$3.9 billion in fiscal year 1988. That figure is the difference between the \$780 million in advances on authorized loans and the \$4.7 billion that were paid to cover principal and interest on past loans.

The loans include REA's Revolving Fund loans and its guarantees. Revolving Fund loans go mainly to distribution systems and are used for extending or upgrading service to consumers. Guarantees are used mainly by generation and transmission co-ops for power supply and transmission projects to deliver electricity to member cooperatives. Those loans are guaranteed by the REA and in most cases the actual loan is made by the FFB, which is part of the Treasury Department.

In fiscal year 1988, principal payments alone totaled more than \$2.5 billion. In addition, rural electric systems paid the federal government more than \$2 billion in interest on loans in fiscal 1988.

Over the 53-year life of the REA, rural electric co-ops have paid the government \$22.5 billion in interest and \$1.4 billion in principal, for a total of \$36.6 billion. During that period, they borrowed \$44.6 billion.

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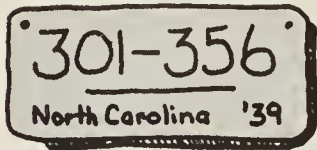
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We're All In This Together. 



Cover Painting Has North Carolina Flavor

You may have noticed that our cover images come to us from a variety of sources. They also find their way onto the cover in a variety of ways, but most often at the initiative of the artist or photographer. They send us samples of their work and we select from those samples.



That wasn't the case with this month's cover, "Rural Memories" by Pamela C. Renfroe of Rt. 2, Bowman, GA. The oil painting was done especially for use on our cover.

Our initial contact with the artist came last summer, when she was showing her paintings and prints at the annual "Lazy Daze" Festival in Cary. One of the prints was from an original painting that had been commissioned by the Georgia statewide organization of electric cooperatives to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1985. Titled "REA—Lighting The Way," it also appeared on the cover of that association's monthly magazine, *Rural Georgia*.

Sandra Ward, our graphics assistant, saw the print and began talking with Mrs. Renfroe about *Carolina Country*. A few weeks later, the artist wrote to me about our interest in using one of her paintings on our cover.

I was impressed with her work from a brochure she supplied, but didn't think any of her pieces were quite right for our cover.

Later, she and her husband, Bob, visited our office to talk about her doing an original painting for us. As we talked about the kinds of images she had done, we came to focus on "Days Gone By," a print that was released in 1987.

Finally, we agreed that she'd do a new painting of a similar scene featuring an old country store as it might have appeared years ago alongside a North Carolina rural road. She translated that concept into "Rural Memories," which is being offered as a signed-and-numbered limited edition print to coincide with its publication on our cover.

To convey the idea that this scene might have been in North Carolina, she placed a 1939 Tar Heel license plate on the truck parked in front of the store.

The Renfroes have already exhibited the original of "Rural Memories" at a couple of shows as part of an advance-sales promotion. The public response has been excellent, with advance orders far exceeding those for previous prints.

For complete details about ordering one of the prints, see page. 4.

A Reader's Helpful Suggestion

One of our readers wrote to us recently with a helpful suggestion for other *Carolina Country* readers.

Judith Eller of Rt. 3, Clemmons, wrote:

"If you have combs that you would like to clean, here's a suggestion: Once a week, remove the hair and put them in the automatic washer along with the water, detergent and clothes. The combs will come out like they're brand new."

Seven Versions Of The 'Golden Rule'

I was intrigued by the following item in a newsletter that recently came across my desk. It was credited to a writer named Ruth Cranston in the publication *World Faiths*:

Christianity: All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so unto them.

Hinduism: Men gifted with intelligence should always treat others as they themselves wish to be treated.

Buddhism: In five ways should a clansman minister to his friends and families: by generosity, courtesy and benevolence, by treating them as he treats himself and by being as good as his word.

Taoism: Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and regard your neighbor's loss as your own loss.

Confucianism: What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.

Judaism: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Islamism: No one of you is a believer until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself.

It Says Here . . .

- A baseball umpire had a reputation for mean and surly behavior. One Sunday morning he asked his son to jump onto his lap while he read the funnies. The son refused. Why? The son never sits on the brutish umpire.

- A fisherman accidentally dropped his wallet into a lake and was startled to see a carp surface with the wallet balanced on its nose. The fish began tossing it to other carp. "My goodness," said the fisherman, "that's the first time I've ever seen carp-to-carp walleting."

- **Signs of the Times**—I recently saw the following comments on an exterior bulletin board at a Raleigh church: "Do Unto Others As Though You Were The Others." "Family Altars Alter Families." "Compassion Is Your Pain In My Heart." And here's a bit of wisdom from a sign outside at hot dog stand: "When All Is Said And Done, There Is More Said Than Done."



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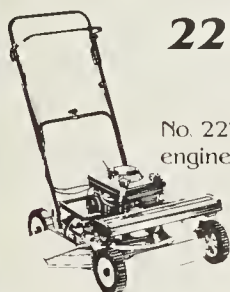


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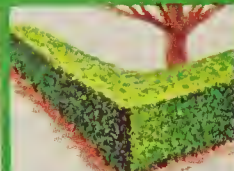
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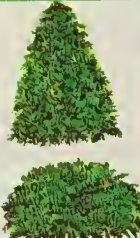
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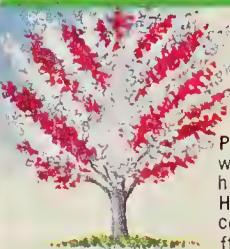
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